NC Check-Ins
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The following FAQ has been developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to assist districts/schools in the implementation of the NC Check-Ins. This information should be used in conjunction with any published supplements or updates.

Purpose and Participation

1. **What are NC Check-Ins?**

   NC Check-Ins are interim assessments developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) that are aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards (for reading and mathematics) and North Carolina Essential Standards (for science).

   The main purpose of NC Check-Ins is to provide students, teachers, and parents with immediate in-depth action data and a reliable estimate of students' current performance on selected subsets of content standards. Both the end-of-grade (EOG) tests and the end-of course (EOC) tests share a common item bank with the NC Check-Ins, which then exposes students to similar item types and rigor found on the EOGs and EOCs.

2. **What grade levels are NC Check-Ins available?**

   For the 2019–20 school year, the following NC Check-Ins are available

   - Grades 4–8 Reading (measures all assessible grade-level content standards and text complexity increases in each successive NC Check-In)
   - Grades 3–8 Mathematics (measures selected subsets of grade-level content standards)
   - Grades 5 and 8 Science (measures Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Science)
   - NC Math 1 (measures selected subsets of grade-level content standards)

3. **Are schools required to participate in the NC Check-Ins?**

   School participation in the NC Check-Ins is voluntary.

4. **Are students enrolled in NC Math 1 Credit Recovery eligible to take the NC Math 1 Check-Ins?**

   Students enrolled in NC Math1 Credit Recovery are eligible to take the NC Math 1 Check-Ins.

5. **Are students enrolled in Foundations of NC Math 1 eligible to take the NC Math 1 Check-Ins?**

   Students enrolled in Foundations of NC Math 1 are not eligible to take the NC Math 1 Check-Ins.

Test Administration and Format

6. **What are the NCDPI-designated NC Check-In windows?**

   Each NC Check-In window is open approximately two months for the test administration and the student/teacher review period. Local education agencies (LEAs)/charter schools may determine the specific days for each NC Check-In administration and review period within the NCDPI-designated windows.

Reading at Grades 4–8 Mathematics at Grades 3–8 Science at Grades 5 and 8		NC Math 1 Year Long Course	
NC Check-In 1	October–November	NC Check-In 1	November–December
NC Check-In 2	January–February	NC Check-In 2	March–April
NC Check-In 3	March–April		
NC Math 1 Block 1 (Fall Semester)		**NC Math 1 Block 2 (Spring Semester)**	
NC Check-In 1	September 16–October 31, 2019	NC Check-In 1	February–March
NC Check-In 2	November–December	NC Check-In 2	April–May

7. **What is a student/teacher review session?**
Following the administration of an NC Check-In, teachers have access to students' test books (for paper/pencil administrations) or an electronic copy of the NC Check-In (for online administrations) until the close of the NCDPI-designated window. Teachers may use the test materials along with score reports to inform and guide reviews and instruction for the standards. Parents may view the NC Check-Ins, but only within the school setting through customary communication (i.e., individual parent/ teacher conferences at the school). Parents may <u>not</u> have copies of the NC Check-In items, nor take pictures of any part of the assessment.

8. **Should districts/charter schools administering the NC Check-Ins also administer a different local benchmark assessment?**
Schools administering NC Check-Ins should not administer an additional local benchmark for the same subject. For example, a grade 3 student participating only in the mathematics NC Check-In may take a local benchmark for reading but should not for mathematics.

9. **Is it required to administer the NC Check-Ins to all students in the school on the same day?**
It is <u>not</u> required to administer NC Check-Ins to all students in the school on the same day, but the Check-Ins must be administered within the testing window.

10. **In what formats are NC Check-Ins administered?**
   - The grades 4–8 Reading and grades 3–8 Mathematics NC Check-Ins are provided in paper/pencil and online formats.
   - The Science and NC Math 1 NC Check-Ins are *only* available online. However, students with disabilities can receive a paper/pencil version of the NC Check-In if there is documentation for the need in the student's current Individual Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

11. **How much time will it take to complete the NC Check-Ins?**
NC Check-Ins are not timed assessments. However, the time it takes for most students to complete an NC Check-In is about ninety (90) minutes. It is a local decision to provide additional time to students who need time beyond the ninety (90) minutes scheduled to complete the NC Check-Ins. If additional time is provided, the teacher must use professional judgement to determine what the appropriate length of time is for the student's test administration.

12. **Do the NC Check-Ins have to be administered in one school day?**
Test administrators have the option to administer the NC Check-Ins during one school day **or** over multiple school days. For multiple school days, the total test administration time can be divided into minisessions as determined by the LEA/charter school test coordinator.

13. **Which item types are on the NC Check-Ins?**
   - The NC Check-Ins do not contain sample items.
   - Reading and Science NC Check-Ins contain multiple-choice items.
   - The Mathematics and NC Math 1 NC Check-Ins have a calculator inactive and a calculator active section. Item types vary and include
     - Grades 3–8 and NC Math 1
       - Multiple-choice items (online and paper/pencil)
     - Grades 5–8 and NC Math 1
       - Gridded response items (paper/pencil only)
       - Numeric entry items (online only)

14. **Are proctors required?**
A proctor is neither required nor should one be used for the administration of the NC Check-Ins.

15. **Must test administrators remove displays from their walls for the NC Check-Ins?**
Teachers are **not** required to remove bulletin boards and instructional displays from walls.

Accommodations and Alternate Assessments

16. **Are instructional accommodations allowed for the NC Check-Ins?**
Students with current IEPs, Section 504 Plans, or English Learner (EL) Plans, or Transitory Impairment documentation may use instructional accommodations for the NC Check-Ins except for the *Test Read Aloud (in English)* and *Interpreter/Transliterator Signs/Cues* accommodations for the grades 4–8 Reading. Reading aloud or signing/cueing the selections, questions, or answer choices on the Reading NC Check-In invalidates results because the NC Check-In measures reading skills.

17. **Is there an alternate assessment for the NC Check-Ins?**
There is no alternate assessment available for the NC Check-Ins. Students with disabilities who, according to their IEP documentation, participate in the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment in accordance with state policies do not participate in the NC Check-Ins.

Scoring, Reporting, and Accountability

18. **What is the time schedule for scoring and returning NC Check-Ins results?**
The score reports for the NC Check-Ins is available to teachers within five (5) school days, and individual student reports should be provided to parents within thirty (30) calendar days.

19. **What type of information will be provided to teachers and parents?**
Each NC Check-In will generate student-level reports indicating the number of items correct by content standard, item type, and selection type, and will report an overall score. Teacher-level reports will provide a summary with similar information. Parents will receive student reports with an overall score by standard and item number. Students will not receive achievement levels for the NC Check-Ins.

20. **Are the NC-Check-In scores included in accountability calculations? Will district and state comparison data be reported for the NC Check-Ins?**
NC Check-In scores are not included in accountability. District and state comparison data will be reported by student, teacher, and school. Comparing district-level results to state-level results is not particularly meaningful. Different schools and classes may be at different places in covering the content based on their testing windows and school calendars. The purpose of the NC Check-Ins is to provide individual and classroom-level *formative* feedback. Comparisons to other classrooms, schools, or LEAs are neither encouraged, nor advised. It would be a misinterpretation for an LEA/charter school to conclude that their students performed better or worse than another LEA/charter school or the state. The value in the NC Check-In results is for teachers to determine if their students have learned the content standards that were covered in their classroom prior to the assessments.

21. **Will the NC Check-Ins "predict" performance on the EOG or EOC summative tests?**
The NCDPI does not have validity evidence to support using results from NC Check-Ins as a predictor of student performance on the EOG or EOC summative tests. Even though there is evidence of a significant correlation between scores from NC Check-Ins and EOGs/EOCs, this correlation evidence by itself does not signify prediction. The overall value of NC Check-Ins is in the use of data for formative purposes throughout the year to help students and teachers adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.